REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review this application which has been amended after a careful consideration of the Examiner's comments in the above-identified Office Action in which the Examiner rejected claims 2-6 as being either anticipated by Nasson or obvious in view of applicants' disclosure of prior art and Wei. Specifically, by this amendment, claims 5 and 6 have been amended to more distinctly point out applicants' invention. Thus, claims 2-6, as amended, are considered to be in allowable form.

For example, applicants' invention as recited in claim 6, as amended, is directed to a gas-tight housing comprising a tubular housing and an end flange that are dimensioned and assembled to provide an interference fit therebetween after assembly via a heat-shrink assembly process, the housing comprising joint-forming means for providing a gas-tight joint, the joint-forming means comprising a plurality of grooves formed in the tubular housing and adhesive being applied in the grooves with the plurality of grooves being dimensioned such that sufficient adhesive is retained in the grooves during and after assembly to ensure a gas-tight joint. Further, applicants' invention as recited in claim 5, as amended, is directed to a method of providing a gas-tight joint between an end flange that expands upon heating and a tubular housing having a plurality of grooves formed therein, the end flange and the tubular housing and the plurality of grooves being dimensioned to provide an interference fit after assembly thereof, the method comprising heating the end flange, applying adhesive to the tubular housing about the plurality of grooves, and assembling the tubular housing and the end flange so that the end flange is positioned over the plurality of grooves with sufficient adhesive being retained in said grooves during and after assembly to ensure a gas-tight joint .

The subject matter of claims 5 and 6 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art since the prior art neither discloses nor suggests providing a gas-tight joint via sufficient adhesive being retained in grooves in the tubular housing and heating the end flange for assembly to provide an interference fit after assembly. The prior art is directed to interlocking structures and deforming of the cooperating parts during assembly thereof. As the Examiner mentions, Nasson requires that the wheel rim must be forced over the wheel spider. Further, the passage cited by the Examiner at column 1, line 65 to column 2, line 2 only generally relates to shrink fits while the overall reference and focus in this section at column 1, lines 50-60 is on a **mechanical interlock** and then augmenting the mechanical interlock with an interference fit that may include shrink fit. The present invention does not involve any kind of mechanical interlock apart from an interference fit achieved after assembly, i.e. as stat dint he specification at page 3, line20, clearance is afforded between the housing and the flange for assembly. Concerning the

Examiner's comments about the Wei reference, the adhesive may "further" secure the parts but the primary attachment of the wheel rim to the disc is a mechanical interlocking arrangement of grooves in the wheel rim and beads in the wheel disc. This is in contrast to applicants' invention where there is no mechanical interlocking arrangement. Thus, there is no suggestion from such a reference to provide grooves to a heat-shrink assembling process with adhesive. Additionally, these references neither disclose nor suggest the features of applicants' invention as recited in claims 2-4, as amended, depending from claim 6. For example, claims 2 and 3 relate to the depth of the grooves being less than the amount of the interference fit.

Accordingly, claims 5 and 6, as well as claims 2-4 depending form claim 6 as amended, and this application are considered to be in a condition for allowance and a favorable action to that end and allowance of this application by the Examiner are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that clarification of any issue or comment herein would be helpful to facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below for a telephonic interview or to arrange a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 7, 2003